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The Menace To Freedom Of Education.

A Specific Danger To Be Combated.

A Singular Alliance Of Forces.

II.

In the first instalment of these articles on the danger threatening the freedom of education we pointed to the menace represented by the presence in Congress of the Smith-Towner bill for the creation of a federal Department of Education and the agitation carried on in favor of this scheme by the National Education Association on the one hand, and repeated attacks on the schools in the various states on the other. Lest some optimistically minded critic undertake to show that we have taken too serious a view of the situation we refer the reader to the assertion of Rev. Paul L. Blakely, S. J., based on intensive research, printed in "America," issue of Jan. 10, 1920: "During the session of 1913-1919 about 700 laws dealing with education were proposed in the State legislatures, and something like a dozen in Congress. . . . Nearly all of these measures were either rankly Socialistic, or were founded on a political theory foreign to American life and institutions; and practically all that I have examined tend to weaken a most important element in primary education, the interest and control of the home. . . ."

Another Menace.

Father Blakely's research provides ample proof—if indeed such were needed—for the contention that the cause of the schools, freedom of education, is in need of vigilant, organized friends. But in addition to the factors described as threatening the schools there is still another influence at work which has a tendency to undermine public and private morality through the schools. The movement for the introduction of the teaching of sex hygiene in the high schools likewise calls for vigilance and courageous opposition. This fad was condemned in many parts of the U. S. some six years ago. Even the N. E. A. in its better days protested vigorously against it, and many of the friends of education believed it had been buried. But the movement for the introduction of this branch of teaching in the high schools is again active, and the U. S. Bureau of Education together with the U. S. Public Health Service, under the Treasury Department, has systematically and persistently advocated sex instruction. For some months past a specialist in sex education, Mr. W. S. Small, has been sending out, under authority of the Commissioner of that Service, questionnaires regarding instruction in these matters to thousands of teachers throughout the country. The questionnaire inquires concerning the value of certain textbooks sent out from Washington. M. J. Exner, M. D., Secretary Student Department of the International Committee of the Y. M. C. A., figures prominently in this campaign. One of the pamphlets prepared under direction of the Surgeon General is entitled "Problem of Sex Education in Schools"; it is issued by the Treasury Department, U. S. Public Health Service, as V. D. Bulletin No. 41. All these publications take for granted that instruction in sex matters must have a place in the curriculum, at present at least in the high school. We have reason to assume that this is only the opening wedge, and that the efforts of the advocates of sex instruction will not be confined to the high school.

Bureau of Education Pamphlet on Sex Instruction.

More objectionable perhaps than the treatises mentioned is a booklet entitled: "A High School Course in Physiology in which the Facts of Sex are Taught," prepared by Grace F. Ellis, of Central High School, Grand Rapids, Mich. It is incredible that a woman should write in such fashion on this subject; yet her authorship is a fact and she even instructs classes on this subject with the aid of diagrams and models, and maintains, moreover, that in her experience a woman can instruct boys in this matter as well as a man can. This pamphlet too is published by the U. S. Public Health Service, as V. D. Bulletin No. 50.

Alliance of Forces.

The absence of scruple on the part of some advocates of sex instruction is shown by the fact that in Grand Rapids, Mich., the teaching of this subject has been undertaken in direct violation of a State law. The legislature in 1919 passed a bill empowering boards of education in graded school districts with a population of more than 3000 to teach physical training.—"Provided: That nothing in this act shall be construed or operate to authorize compulsory examination or compulsory medical treatment of school children, nor to allow the teaching of sex hygiene and kindred subjects in the public schools of the State." Now the Bureau of Education, although it has not the authority it would have when once raised to a federal Department of Education, openly advocates instruction in sex matters through an official pamphlet written by a teacher in Grand Rapids, who is openly violating the law of that State in the same premises. What, then, may one expect from a full-fledged Department of Education, with a Secretary at its head, with vastly increased power and authority! Just how this power may be used is suggested in the criticism offered by the American Schoolmaster (Lansing, Mich., Nov. 1919 issue) on the leading article, appearing in the N. E. A. Bulletin for November, written by Superintendent F. E. Spaulding of Cleveland, and advocating universal compulsory civic and military training for males. The Schoolmaster comments in part thus: "To think that we should so soon be greeted with serious proposals for an alliance of the newly created (to be created, Ed.) Department of Education with the War Department! And that the N. E. A. officialdom should so far countenance the proposal as to give it space in its meagre two-dollar Bulletin! One must be blind indeed to fail to see the possibilities that would present themselves to a Department of Education. Even now cooperation for the

sake of propaganda is evident between the N. E. A., the U. S. Public Health Service (under the Treasury Department) and the War Department. Service Rendered by War Department.

To prevent misunderstanding we desire to say that we have a high regard for the intentions and efforts of the War Department and the Public Health Service in their fight on venereal diseases. The efforts of the American Social Hygiene Association, New York, and of some State Boards of Health have also been fruitful of good. But we insist that sex instruction should have no place in the curriculum of our schools, and that consequently neither a federal Bureau nor a Federal Department nor a State Board should permit itself to become a tool in the hands of the promoters of so dangerous a fad.

Two-fold Danger To Be Over-com.

The introduction of sex education into the schools must be combated for one reason; the proposed creation of a Department of Education, inseparable from the dangerous tendency towards centralization, for another. But inasmuch as some of the principal elements favoring either are at the same time favoring both, it is evident that there is all the more reason for opposing the propaganda conducted by the N. E. A. for the accomplishment of the purposes aimed at by the Smith-Towner bill. Catholics and all other serious-minded citizens should strive strenuously and constantly to combat successfully the outcroppings of the tendency towards centralization of education and towards injecting dangerous fads into the schools. Both tendencies, if permitted to work themselves out, would result in grievous harm: the one would have an injurious effect on private and public morality, the other would tend to foster State Absolutism and to violate seriously the rights of parents in the education of their children.

C.-B. of the C. V.

A Colored Priesthood For The Colored.

No one who has read the recent "Annual Messenger of the Negro Missions" of the Society of the Divine Word could fail to notice how persistently the necessity of a colored clergy for the South is urged. "A colored priesthood for the colored" is the adopted slogan of those who now have toiled and worked there for ten years. That this is not a mere private opinion, is shown by the fact that other societies engaged in the same field are heart and soul for the same cause, and furthermore, by the fact that a few weeks later the very same thought was most earnestly put forth by our Holy Father Benedict XV. He writes: "For as the Church of God is catholic and is a stranger to no nation and no race, it is but fitting that helpers be drawn from every nation, whom their countrymen may follow as their superiors and their guides. Whenever a sufficient native clergy, well instructed and worthy of their vocation, is found, there we may safely affirm, the work of the missionary is gloriously crowned and the Church itself solidly established." When, then, will the Catholics of America (for on them rests the blame) respond and drop the race division? When will they permit these men to realize what they and so many others feel to be a real necessity? Any one interested in this ques-

K. of C. Erects Students Home

Magnificent Home, First of Its Kind, Put Up at State University Of Missouri.

The ten thousand students attending the University of Missouri opened their eyes last Sunday to find that a handsome new club had suddenly appeared within a stone's throw of the campus. The Knights of Columbus of Missouri had put the club there—entirely at their own expense—for the convenience of the Missouri University students and especially for the former service men attending that institution. Columbia is a small town of barely five thousand inhabitants. During school terms the population is larger, but the opportunities for social recreation have always been limited.

Two years ago it occurred to a young man named Luke E. Hart, state deputy of the Missouri K. of C., that ten dollars per capita from the membership of his jurisdiction would give Missouri University a young men's club that Missouri University badly needed. He made known his plan and a quiet drive was inaugurated, with the result that in the course of a year the Missouri Knights, while responding to Liberty Loan, Red Cross and other drives, gave \$50,000 for the new project—an essentially peacetime project. Hart instantly felt for tenders on the building, knowing that labor costs were mounting. A St. Louis architect volunteered his services and designed a handsome, compact structure.

Money continued to come into the fund. Contracts were signed last February and building commenced. If contracts calling for the same quantity and quality of work were signed today the building cost would be doubled. When \$125,000 had been collected the work was rushed, with the result that last Sunday a great gathering of Knights from all parts of Missouri—the men who had put up the building—gathered to witness its formal presentation to the university. Archbishop John J. Glennon of St. Louis, Bishop Lillis of Kansas City and Bishop Byrne of Galveston pontificated at the ceremonies, and James A. Flaherty of Philadelphia, Supreme Knight of the K. of C., made the keynote address. President A. Ross Hill of Missouri University received the Knights' gift of a comfortable home and club in behalf of young men students of the school.

The building is three stories high and contains fifty bedrooms with double-deck beds, making it capable of accommodating one hundred young men. It contains handsome lounge, music and billiard rooms and an amphitheater seating 1,000 persons and fitted up for moving picture shows, theatricals, balls and banquets. Student boarders pay their way—the cost, including room and bath (a bath being attached to each bedroom) being between \$11 and \$12 per week. There are nineteen K. of C. scholarship holders at Missouri, and the K-C allowance to each of the order's 500 service men scholars covers this charge for board.

This is probably the first club of its kind to be erected from its private funds by the state organization of a national body. The club will be maintained by the K. of C. and it is estimated that its final cost will approach the \$250,000 mark. All the students of Missouri University have use of the club facilities, and the Knights

have stressed their invitation to all former service men. The erection of the home completed a total of \$3,000,000 spent by the Knights on higher education for former service men.

Supreme Knight Flaherty struck the principle underlying K. of C. activity for ex-service men in his address when he said: "No veteran of the war will look to the Knights in vain. We stand always ready to help, practically and promptly. We gave our best in time of war and we shall always give our best in time of peace."

Catholic Publishers Meet in New York

NEW YORK.—The Twelfth Annual Meeting of the Association of Catholic Publishers, Manufacturers of and Dealers in Church goods of America, was held at Hotel Astor, Saturday afternoon, January 31st, at 3 o'clock.

Matters of trade interest were freely discussed in a spirit of friendly cooperation towards a greater distribution of Catholic literature, Church goods and religious articles. The following resolution was adopted and the Secretary was instructed to forward a copy to His Grace Right Rev. William T. Russell, D. D., Chairman of the Catholic Press Literary Bureau of the National Catholic Welfare Council.

At the annual meeting of the Catholic Publishers, Manufacturers of and Dealers in Church Goods of America, the following resolutions were adopted.

Having learned from our President, Mr. Arthur Kennedy, of the program of the Department of Press, Publicity and Literature of the National Catholic Welfare Council, heit resolved—

That this Association is in sympathy with the aims of the Department and pledges its cooperation to further their plans in every way it may.

Practically all of the Catholic Supply Houses in the United States are members of this association and a large representation attended the meeting this year; several of them from West of the Rocky Mountains.

Three Directors were elected to serve for three years:

Mr. Dennis C. Fauss, New York; Mr. William F. Heister, Philadelphia; Mr. Victor G. Matre, Chicago.

The following officers were elected: President: Arthur Kennedy, New York; Vice-President: Joseph P. Schaefer, Milwaukee; Treasurer: Matthew F. Sheehan, Boston; Secretary: T. M. O'Connell, Philadelphia.

The meeting was followed by a banquet at which addresses were delivered by Dr. Conde B. Pallen, New York; Mr. P. E. Sullivan, Portland; Mr. E. Vincent Wareing, London; Mr. J. T. Lynch, Syracuse, and Mr. Dennis C. Fauss, New York.

The next annual meeting will be held in New York City on the last Saturday in January, 1921.

That great friend of youth, Father Henry S. Spalding, S. J., just published another juvenile volume, "Held in the Everglades." Father Spalding is a native of Bardstown, Ky., and closely related to the illustrious Archbishop Spalding.

The King of Italy has conferred the Grand Cross of the Order of St. Maurice on Cardinal Richelmy.

The Catholic Women's League of the Archdiocese of Boston numbers over 500,000.

tion may occur. . . . to Rev. P. W. . . . 18th Ave. . . .

IRISH NEWS

Antrim
Kilmore Estate, situated in picturesque Vale of County Antrim, was recently acquired by Joseph M. . . . a well known business man associated with the Glenside Water Company.

Carlow
When a question arose regarding housing at Carlow E. D. C. Byrne said money had been used to Ireland before the . . . and if this country had . . . at Westminster . . . Home Rule money could . . . Declaring there was no money the British Treasury, J. F. . . . said England owed 1,000 million and if only Ireland got a . . . of the 800 millions over . . . they could build houses . . . palaces.

Clara
Mother . . . of . . . Convent of . . . died . . . during . . . superior . . . of the Most . . . S. A., late . . . niece to the . . . bery, O. P., . . . ilton, U. S. A.

Cork
Mr. Donohy, at . . . the Cork Harbor . . . to an article by . . . Pearson's Magazine . . . was stated that . . . Harbor was not . . . a destroyer to . . . to back five miles to get . . . Captain Collins said . . . ment was an insult to . . . and harbor of Cork. The . . . visor was ordered to . . . matter up with the . . . of the magazine.

Dublin
In the Catholic . . . rooms, 24 Upper O'Connell . . . F. T. Sweeney, E. L., . . . his series of lectures . . . ic Democracy," . . . which it is claimed . . . production, was . . . ly increased without . . . with existing profits . . . ownership.

Galway
Richard J. O'Connell, . . . scholar and authority . . . pipes, died recently.

Galway
Most Rev. Dr. Glennon . . . aided at the obsequies . . . John J. Corcoran, P. . . . and over 70 priests . . . Achnary diocese . . . Grace delivered an . . . ute to the deceased. . . . ment took place . . . ing enclosing the . . . Lady of Miracles . . . Church.

Kilkenny
Messrs. R. McCowan . . . Ltd., Tralee, are . . . steamer of 800 tons . . . more, built for their . . . Very Rev. Father . . . M., Galway, . . . Poor Clares . . . Miss Madge Fitz . . . ion Sister Mary . . . ter of Mr. and Mrs. . . . Flitfield, Kilkenny.

Kilkenny
Rev. D. J. Hughes . . . County Kilkenny . . . presented with an . . . dress by the people . . . on his death.

When